

Inventor's Name: Akihiko MOTEGI
Reissue of U.S. Patent No. 6,307,640

print 2/25/98
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IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new Claims 9-35 as follows:

9. (New) A network host computer, comprising:

an interface unit configured to communicatively couple the network host computer to
a computer terminal and a plurality of network printers, said interface unit being configured
to receive a print request message from said computer terminal, said print request message
including print data and not uniquely identifying a printer for printing the print data;

a memory configured to store said print data; and

a processor configured to:

produce a job number associated with the print request message received from the
computer terminal,

recognize that said job number has been input to a particular one of said plurality of
printers,

associate said particular printer with said print request message and identify the
particular printer as the printer for receiving the print request message, and

provide said print data to said identified particular printer for printing, wherein a user
can input said job number into any one of the plurality of printers in order to print the print
data at the printer into which the user input the job number.

9
1
10-11-12-15
13 16-17-18
14 19
20 2
21
1
22-23-24
25
26
27-28-29-30
31
32-33
34-35

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10. (New) The network host computer of Claim 9, wherein said interface unit is further configured to receive at least one of image data and text data as said print data from said computer terminal.

11. (New) The network host computer of Claim 9, wherein said processor is further configured to send said job number to the computer terminal so that the job number can be displayed on the computer terminal.

12. (New) The network host computer of Claim 9, wherein said memory is configured to store said job number, and said processor is configured to associate said particular printer with said print request message and identify the particular printer as the printer for receiving the print request message by verifying that the job number input to said particular printer matches said job number stored in said memory.

13. (New) The network host computer of Claim 12, wherein said processor is further configured to perform a secondary verification if said job number input to said particular printer does not match said job number stored in said memory.

14. (New) The network host computer of Claim 13, wherein said processor is further configured to send an error message to said printer when a job number input to said particular

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printer as part of said secondary verification does not match said job number stored in said memory.

15. (New) The network host computer of Claim 9, wherein said interface unit is further configured to receive a password from said computer terminal.

16. (New) The network host computer of Claim 15, wherein said processor is further configured to send said job number and password to the computer terminal so that the job number and password can be displayed on the computer terminal.

17. (New) The network host computer of Claim 15, wherein said processor is further configured to:

associate said job number with said password and print request message received from the computer terminal;

recognize that said job number and password has been input to a particular one of said plurality of printers;

associate said particular printer with said print request message and identify the particular printer as the printer for receiving the print request message; and

provide said print data to said identified particular printer for printing, wherein a user can input said job number and password into any one of the plurality of printers in order to print the print data at the printer into which the user input the job number.

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18. (New) The network host computer of Claim 15, wherein
said memory is configured to store said job number and password, and
said processor is configured to associate said particular printer with said print request
message and identify the particular printer as the printer for receiving the print request
message by verifying that the job number and password input to said particular printer
matches said job number and password stored in said memory.

19. (New) The network host computer of Claim 18, wherein said processor is further
configured to perform a secondary verification if said job number or and password input to
said particular printer does not match said job number stored in said memory.

20. (New) The network host computer of Claim 19, wherein said processor is further
configured to send an error message to said printer when a job number and password input to
said particular printer as part of said secondary verification does not match said job number
and password stored in said memory.

21. (New) A network computer terminal comprising:
an interface unit configured to communicatively couple the network computer
terminal to a host computer and a plurality of network printers;
a computer user interface configured to input information into said network computer
terminal;
a processor configured to:

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produce a print request message in response to information provided through said computer user interface, said print request message containing print data and not uniquely identifying a device for printing said print data,

send said print request message to said host computer via said interface unit, and receive a job number produced by the host computer and associated with said print request message; and

a computer display configured to display an indication of said job number, wherein said host computer recognizes when said job number is input to a particular printer of said plurality of printers and, based on said job number input, associates said particular printer with said print request message and identifies the particular printer as the printer for receiving the print request message, and provides said print data to said identified particular printer for printing so that a user can input said job number into any one of the plurality of printers in order to print the print data at the printer into which the user input the job number.

22. (New) The network computer terminal of Claim 21, wherein said interface unit comprises a video and command data interface unit.

23. (New) The network computer terminal of Claim 21, wherein said a processor is configured to produce a print request message including at least one of image data and text data.

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24. (New) The network computer terminal of Claim 21, wherein said processor is further configured to input a password in response to information provided through said computer user interface.

25. (New) The network computer terminal of Claim 24 wherein said processor is further configured to:
send said password and print request message to said host computer via said interface unit,
receive a job number produced by the host computer and associated with said password and print request message; and
said computer display is further configured to display an indication of said job number and password, wherein said host computer recognizes when said job number and password is input to a particular printer of said plurality of printers and, based on said job number and password input, associates said particular printer with said print request message and identifies the particular printer as the printer for receiving the print request message, and provides said print data to said identified particular printer for printing so that a user can input said job number and password into any one of the plurality of printers in order to print the print data at the printer into which the user input the job number and password.

26. (New) A network printer comprising:
an interface unit configured to communicatively couple the network printer to a computer terminal, a host computer and a plurality of other network printers;

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a printer user interface having a data input device and a data display device,
a processor configured to:
receive a job number input through said printer user interface, the job number
previously associated with a print request message by the host computer, the print request
message being sent by the computer terminal and having print data but not uniquely
identifying a device for printing said print data,
send said job number to said host computer, which identifies the printer that sent the
job number as the printer to receive the print request message and provides the print data to
the identified printer; and
a print mechanism configured to print said print data, wherein a user can input said
job number into any one of the plurality of printers in order to print the print data at the
printer into which the user input the job number.

27. (New) The network printer of Claim 26, wherein said interface unit comprises a
video and command data interface unit.

28. (New) The network printer of Claim 26, wherein said print data comprises at
least one of image data and text data.

29. (New) The network printer of Claim 26, wherein said processor is configured to
send a request to the host computer requesting that the job number be verified by the host
computer.

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30. (New) The network printer of Claim 26, wherein said processor is further configured to:

receive a password and a job number input through said printer user interface, the password and job number previously associated with said print request message by the host computer; and

send said password and job number to said host computer, which identifies the printer that sent the password and job number as the printer to receive the print request message and provides the print data to the identified printer, wherein a user can input said password and job number into any one of the plurality of printers in order to print the print data at the printer into which the user input the password and job number.

31. (New) A network print server configured to connect to a plurality of printers, comprising:

an interface unit configured to communicatively couple the network print server to a host computer, that is connected to a computer terminal, said interface unit being configured to:

receive a print request message from said computer terminal via said host computer, said print request message including print data and not uniquely identifying a printer for printing the print data, and

receive a job number produced by the host computer and associated with the print request message received from the computer terminal; and

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a processor configured to:

recognize that said job number has been input to a particular one of said plurality of printers,

associate said particular printer with said print request message and identify the particular printer as the printer for receiving the print request message, and

provide said print data to said identified particular printer for printing, wherein a user can input said job number into any one of the plurality of printers in order to print the print data at the printer into which the user input the job number.

32. (New) The network print server of Claim 31, wherein said print data comprises at least one of image data and text data.

33. (New) The network print server of Claim 31, wherein said interface unit is further configured to receive a password from said computer terminal via said host computer.

34. (New) The network print server of Claim 33, wherein said processor is further configured to:

associate said job number with said password and print request message received from the computer terminal;

recognize that said job number and password has been input to a particular one of said plurality of printers;

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associate said particular printer with said print request message and identify the particular printer as the printer for receiving the print request message; and provide said print data to said identified particular printer for printing, wherein a user can input said job number and password into any one of the plurality of printers in order to print the print data at the printer into which the user input the job number.

35. (New) The network print server of Claim 33, further comprising a memory configured to store said job number and password, wherein said processor is configured to associate said particular printer with said print request message and identify the particular printer as the printer for receiving the print request message by verifying that the job number and password input to said particular printer matches said job number and password stored in said memory.